

management will mean that no one goes without having access to clean drinking water; our farmers can grow food—where water flows, we say food grows—for our country and for other parts of the world that need that food; and our environment can thrive. That is what we must do.

We have a current crisis. We must act now to address that crisis, and that is a challenge we face.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR GENERAL BENJAMIN CORELL ON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major General Benjamin Corell of Strawberry Point, Iowa, for his outstanding service as a 37-year member of the Iowa National Guard.

Major General Corell retired last week after serving as Iowa National Guard's top general since 2019, leading the Guard through the COVID pandemic.

Throughout his decorated career, Major General Corell has deployed overseas to Iraq, Afghanistan, Romania, and Kuwait, and has led several of the National Guard's infantry divisions. He retired with a master's degree and a career full of military awards and accomplishments.

Major General Corell plans to spend his retirement with his wife, Beth, and their seven grandchildren, passing along the values that guided him through his career. All three of his sons are noncommissioned officers in the Iowa Army National Guard. I wish them the very best as they follow in the footsteps of an excellent father and role model.

Coming from a financially challenged family in rural Iowa with no college education, Major General Corell's life journey represents the very best of Iowa and the rest of the country and serves as a shining example for generations to come.

I am grateful for Major General Benjamin Corell's service, and I wish him a relaxing and fulfilling retirement.

O'HARA TRUE VALUE HARDWARE CLOSING AFTER 83 YEARS IN BUSINESS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize O'Hara True Value Hardware in Ottumwa, Iowa, which is closing after 83 years in business.

Martin and Florence O'Hara opened the doors of O'Hara Appliance in January of 1940, but before long, the appliance store quickly shifted into a hardware store, too. Martin had offered home repair advice for years, and the shift came naturally.

The O'Haras value being family owned and operated, and their children each grew into employees at the shop, including their son Mike, who ultimately took over the business and who I know well.

For years, Mike O'Hara has continued his family's legacy in Ottumwa, offering the best service and advice for all things plumbing, electrical, automotive, construction, and repairs. You could take in any kind of screw from any kind of product, and they could tell you what it went for and how to replace it.

The store is also famous for having the best Christmas decorations in town, to include live reindeer in a stable outside throughout December.

O'Hara has overcome numerous challenges over the last several decades, including major fires, the flood of 1993, and most recently, the COVID pandemic.

Mike's commitment to serving his community has always remained clear and steadfast. I am proud to know Mike and his family, and I wish him the very best in retirement—they so deserve that—but they are going to be greatly missed. The town will cherish their memories from O'Hara's and we will all miss going there for home repair needs.

HOSTING CUBA'S BORDER GUARD AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS UNACCEPTABLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I found out on Friday of this past week that Cuba's Border Guard and Ministry of Foreign Affairs had been hosted in the North Carolina congressional district that I am honored to represent. The Wilmington Port facilities visit was planned and authorized by the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of State.

As one of our Nation's oldest adversaries and a state sponsor of terrorism, Cuba's Communist Government is no friend of the United States or anyone else who believes in freedom. Cuba has a history of being a strategic Western asset to our greatest adversaries, including China, Russia, and Iran, and they regularly cooperate with narcotics traffickers, bringing cocaine, fentanyl, and other deadly drugs to our country.

Now I am told this trip, as well as others in the past, have been arranged as part of a reciprocal relationship to turn back Cubans fleeing to the United States. We apparently have this arrangement where we view their ports and security protocols, and they view ours.

There is no reason any nation with a state sponsor of terrorism designation should be hosted by the United States, let alone be allowed to analyze sensitive coastal and maritime security protocols. Ironically, the decision to designate Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism and the decision to authorize this trip were made by the same agencies. This action flies in the face of the purpose of both the Department of

Homeland Security and the Department of State and makes a mockery of American strength against our adversaries.

The shores of North Carolina's Seventh Congressional District are used and enjoyed by its residents and countless tourists from across the country. It is our responsibility to ensure the security of our maritime borders, and our Coast Guard often serves as the first line of defense against these threats.

Mr. Speaker, this visit was a clear national security risk. I don't know how one could view it otherwise. The bottom line is, this visit should never have happened, and the American people deserve to know what steps were taken to protect our national security interests.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF EDWARD FORD WEBER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the productive life of the Honorable Congressman Edward Ford Weber of Toledo, Ohio, a gifted lawyer and a man for others.

Throughout his life and during his congressional service, beginning in 1981, he worked hard to serve the people of northwest Ohio during those tumultuous economic times.

He was a gentleman and a veteran, dedicated to his family, to our community of Toledo, and to our country. He earned a Phi Beta Kappa from Denison University, was president of his fraternity, and captain of the men's tennis team. He was married to the love of his life, Alice Hammerstrom, for 66 years. They reared three wonderful children, six grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

Ed was committed to education and to music, as well. He tutored children in reading within the Toledo public school system, some of our most challenged neighborhoods, in addition to the teaching he did at the University of Toledo Law School.

Ed practiced law in Toledo for nearly half a century at Marshall Melhorn first, and then eventually founded his own firm and generously kept giving of himself to numerous endeavors to improve Toledo: Our zoo; the Toledo Museum of History, which is world class; the Boy Scouts; the YMCA; the Toledo Museum of Art, also world class; the Red Cross; and numerous charitable foundations. He kept giving back, through his deep commitment to the people of Toledo and surrounding communities, and we needed him. He understood the impact and importance of civic duty.

Today, America salutes Edward Ford Weber for his lifelong, noble, honorable service. We honor and remember his constructive life and the ethic that imbued his spirit.

The last time I had the pleasure of seeing him was at the Toledo Club. He

had a Wednesday group, and all these guys would meet. They basically had formally retired from their professions, but they really didn't retire from life, and they were having one great time.

Our prayers are extended to his loved ones. May they be comforted by the love and memories they hold in their hearts, and may the angels carry their beloved husband, father, and grandfather to a place of peace and joy.

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HONORING PENN STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS FOR THEIR FUNDRAISING FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor, thank, and express my sincerest gratitude for an incredible group of students at Penn State University.

This group of students have spent the last year dedicating countless hours to support a fantastic cause benefiting pediatric cancer patients. I am talking about THON.

This year-long fundraising effort culminates in an annual 46-hour dance marathon to support more than 4,500 families financially and emotionally with children who are battling cancer.

On February 17, Penn State students, staff, family, friends, volunteers, and spectators filled the Bryce Jordan Center for the 51st Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, more widely known as THON, to raise money for the Four Diamonds Foundation.

THON was founded in 1973 by Penn State fraternities and sororities. What began as a small fundraiser bringing in \$2,000 in its inaugural year has flourished into a campus-wide effort with more than 16,000 student volunteers across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In 1977, THON partnered with the Four Diamonds Foundation, and since then, not a single Four Diamonds family has received a medical bill thanks to the tireless work and dedication of Penn State students.

The Four Diamonds Foundation was founded by Charles and Irma Millard in 1972 after their son, Christopher, lost his battle with cancer at 11 years old. Before Christopher passed away, he wrote a story about a great knight who sought out the four diamonds of courage, wisdom, honesty, and strength to be saved from the evil sorceress. His parents realized those four qualities were all necessary to overcome cancer, and they created the Four Diamonds Foundation in his memory.

Over the past 50 years, THON has grown into the largest student-run philanthropy in the world.

Students stood from 6 p.m. on Friday, February 17 until 4 p.m. on Sunday, February 19. While it was an im-

pressive feat to hold, what is even more incredible is the drive, fortitude, and flexibility these students showed in their commitment to this cause.

This year, Penn State students raised a record \$15,006,132.46, and to date, students have shattered records and raised more than \$200 million, making THON the largest student-run philanthropic effort in the world.

Of course, their dedication is to be applauded, but ask any Penn State student, and they will agree: THON isn't about them. It is about the children and the families fighting cancer.

THON is for the kids, and it is for the families to focus on celebrating more birthdays, piano recitals, science fairs, graduations, and every other milestone a child should celebrate without fear.

THON exists so one day parents never have to hear the words: "Your child has cancer."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of these students, but more importantly, I am proud of the children and the families who have the courage to fight back against pediatric cancer.

Congratulations once again to everyone involved in this year's THON. We are.

ADDRESSING THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. SANTOS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the Republic of Türkiye—the more I learn, the more I am appalled that they are allowed to remain in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

From their historic and well-documented persecution of Armenians, human rights abuses—even today—and their objections to Sweden and Finland joining NATO, why do we keep or even trust Türkiye as a partner in maintaining world order?

In major issues related to Iran, Syria, Russia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, Türkiye is involved and not always helpful to our interests. It is time to rethink this arrangement.

My district in New York has a sizable population of Armenian descendants, multigeneration, first generation, and new arrivals. These citizens have close ties and legitimate concerns about what is going on over there in Armenia.

To my constituents: Yes, I will co-sponsor H. Res. 108, but I will also ask this legislative body and my friends in the Senate to reconsider our continued partnership with Türkiye.

PROTECTING THE NATURAL FAMILY IS ESSENTIAL FOR OUR NATION TO PROSPER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, for years we have witnessed a con-

certed effort by activists on the left to abolish the natural family.

The natural family, a man and woman committed for life to each other and to their children, was ordained by God as the foundation of our society. The natural family is essential for our Nation to prosper because the family is the root of self-government, service, community, personal responsibility, and faith in God.

That is why today I am launching the Congressional Family Caucus. The Congressional Family Caucus will serve to defend the natural family from attempts by the radical left to erode this core foundation of our society.

The left advances abortion, fatherlessness, surgical castration, and atheism. These woke progressives attempt to diminish parental rights by eliminating parental consent and replacing families with the State.

Families are the bedrock of our values and protectors of our youth. According to Deuteronomy 6, in the context of traditional family in the home, we are to diligently instruct our children to love God and to obey His commandments.

I believe we have a moral obligation as servant Representatives to protect and to conserve the family. Families have made this country great. I am honored to be joined by Representative DIANA HARSHBARGER from Tennessee and Representative BRIAN BABIN from Texas in our efforts to protect the family.

CHILDREN'S INNOCENCE MUST BE PROTECTED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I announce that I am reintroducing my bill, the Protect Children's Innocence Act. This bill will stop gender-affirming care on children. It will protect children from the heinous and evil ideology that is grooming kids and making a profit off of horrific surgeries that mutilate their genitals, give them life-altering medications like puberty blockers, hormone therapy that will have permanent damage to their bodies for the rest of their lives before these kids are even grown up, before they have graduated from high school, before they are old enough to vote, before they are old enough to get a tattoo—ink on their own skin—before they are old enough to join the military, before they are old enough to make adult decisions.

This is an important bill that Congress must pass.

My bill will charge any person who knowingly performs gender-affirming care on a minor with a Class C felony. It will prohibit all taxpayer-funded gender-affirming care. It will prohibit institutions of higher education from providing instruction on gender-affirming care.

There is nothing affirming about lying to children that they can change